

Minutes
Toll Bridge Advisory Committee
Meeting of November 8, 2002

Meeting Schedule

December 13 Review Project List, Comments, and Next Steps

*All meetings to be held at 2pm, in the Alameda County CMA Offices located in
downtown Oakland at 1333 Broadway, Suite 220.

MTC Evaluation

Rebecca Long (MTC) distributed a draft matrix summarizing MTC's evaluation and gave an overview of the criteria used. Sponsors and others are encouraged to review the criteria and respond to MTC with comments and corrections. MTC will aim to have a final matrix by mid-December. Rebecca explained that project cost per new transit rider was left blank in this first draft as MTC is still gathering information from project sponsors and did not want to provide inconsistent performance measures.

Ezra Rapport – Toll Bridge Expenditure Plan Tier 1

Ezra Rapport presented a draft proposal to the Committee for the core expenditure plan (Tier 1). The proposed plan, assembled by Mr. Rapport, was drawn primarily from presentations made by project sponsors, and incorporating comments during the evaluation sessions. The proposed plan was presented for comment by the Committee. The presentation covered program goals, a summary of the plan, and a list of Tier 1 projects. In response to questions on sustainability, Ezra stated financial modeling would be prepared to cover increasing operating costs for 15 years by allowing the amount allocated to operations to increase by 3.2 % annually. Following fifteen years, options to continue sustainability could include another bridge toll increase or other regional funds. It may be possible to cover capital replacement needs with a second financing between the fifteenth and twentieth year of toll funding. In response to questions, Ezra indicated that it is not intended that system-wide projects have higher priority than other projects.

Ezra requested that sponsors contact him toward the end of November to begin one-on-one discussions on project funding amounts in the plan. He hopes to talk to each sponsor before publicizing the program funding levels. Senator Perata will consult with his colleagues in the Legislature prior to determining either the project list or proposed funding amounts. It is expected that such list would be completed by the first Senate Transportation Committee hearing in March. In the mean time, Ezra suggested staff check with their boards to see if the Tier 1 project list is a reasonable starting point for the plan. He emphasized he does not expect the board to take formal action until funding levels are publicized in the spring. Ezra will also begin briefing other legislators in November and December. He would be happy for MTC to participate in these briefings.

Rebecca Long (MTC) suggested that we may want to circulate a draft plan with funding levels earlier so we can agree on a single plan and so we don't end up going to the legislature with multiple plans. Ezra noted that at some point MTC might develop a draft plan for presentation to the Commission. This would provide a forum for discussion.

Stuart Cohen (TALC) suggested there should be meetings by bridge corridor following the December meeting (tentatively set for December 13th) of the Toll Advisory Committee to help reach agreement on the program. Howard Goode (Caltrain) suggested the corridor groups begin meeting sooner, with MTC's facilitation, to discuss revenues.